

Application S/N 10/631,370
Amendment dated: November 28, 2005
Response to Office Action dated: August 24, 2005

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of establishing secure communications in a multi-mode portable communication device, comprising the steps of:

establishing a symmetric traffic key between the multi-mode portable communication device and a second portable communication device in a first mode type of communication;

storing the symmetric traffic key in a recent call list that reflects recent communications between the multi-mode portable communication device and the second portable communication device;

switching to at least a second mode type of communication; and
sharing the symmetric traffic key between the multi-mode portable communication device and the second portable communication device.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing the symmetric traffic key is achieved using Automatic Public Key exchange techniques by having the multi-mode portable communication device and the second portable communication device each independently computing the symmetric traffic key using their respective private keys along with a public key of a peer unit before commencing secure communications in a first mode type of communication.

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3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the Automatic Public Key exchange is implemented using public-key algorithms such as Diffie-Hellman cryptography or Elliptic Curve Cryptography.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the Automatic Public Key exchange is implemented by combining public-key algorithms with a signaling scheme such as Future Narrow Band Digital Terminal protocol.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of switching to the second mode ~~type of communication~~ from the first mode ~~type of communication~~ comprises switching among modes ~~communication types~~ comprising interconnect voice, dispatch voice, peer-to-peer data, and peer-to-peer voice.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of switching to the second mode ~~type of communication~~ from the first mode ~~type of communication~~ comprises switching among modes ~~communication types~~ comprising CDMA, TDMA, GSM, and WLAN.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of storing the symmetric traffic key in a phonebook record associated with the second portable communication device.

8. (canceled)

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9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of establishing a new communication session between the multi-mode portable communication device and the second portable communication device without requiring an APK key establishment process.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of establishing a key exchange with a plurality of other predetermined portable communication devices during ~~a background~~ an idle mode.

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11. (currently amended) A method of establishing secure communications among a plurality of portable communication devices, comprising the steps of:

storing information associated with a predetermined number of other portable communication devices;

establishing a symmetric traffic key using an APK key establishment process between a first portable communication device and the predetermined number of other portable communication devices during a ~~background~~ an idle mode of the first portable communication device; and

establishing a secure communication session in a first type of communication between the first portable communication and at least one among the predetermined number of other portable communication devices without further requiring the APK key establishment process;

switching to at least a second type of communication; and

sharing the symmetric traffic key between the first portable communication device and the at least one among the predetermined number of other portable communication devices in the second type of communication.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of establishing a symmetric traffic key using the APK key establishment process comprises contacting the predetermined number of other portable communication devices to determine if their respective keys have expired and performing a background APK exchange to re-establish a fresh key if the respective key has expired.

13. (canceled)

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14. (currently amended) A portable communication device capable of operating in multiple modes, comprising:

a transceiver;

a memory that includes a recent call list that reflects recent communications between the portable communication device and other communication devices;

a processor coupled to the transceiver and the memory, wherein the processor is programmed to:

establish a symmetric traffic key in a first mode type of communication between the portable communication device and a second portable communication device;

store the symmetric traffic key in the recent call list;

switch to at least a second mode type of communication;

share the symmetric traffic key between the portable communication device and the second portable communication device.

15. (original) The portable communication device of claim 14, wherein the processor is programmed to establish the symmetric traffic key using Automatic Public Key exchange techniques.

16. (original) The portable communication device of claim 15, wherein the Automatic Public Key exchange is implemented using a signaling scheme such as Future Narrow Band Digital Terminal protocol combined with public-key algorithms such as Diffie-Hellman cryptography or Elliptic Curve Cryptography.

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17. (currently amended) The portable communication device of claim 14, wherein the processor is programmed to switch to the second mode ~~type of communication~~ from the first mode ~~type of communication~~ by switching among modes ~~communication types~~ comprising interconnect voice, dispatch voice, peer-to-peer data, peer-to-peer voice, CDMA, TDMA, GSM, and WLAN.

18. (original) The portable communication device of claim 14, wherein the processor is further programmed to store the symmetric traffic key in at least one among a phonebook record associated with the second portable communication device and a cache memory associated with a predetermined number of other portable communication devices in recent secure communication with the portable communication device.

19. (original) The portable communication device of claim 14, wherein the processor is further programmed to establish a new communication session between the portable communication device and the second portable communication device without requiring an APK key establishment process.

20. (currently amended) The portable communication device of claim 14, wherein the processor is further programmed to establish a key exchange with a plurality of other predetermined portable communication devices during ~~a background~~ an idle mode.

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21. (currently amended) A portable communication device capable of operating in multiple modes, comprising:

a transceiver;

a processor coupled to the transceiver, wherein the processor is programmed to:

store information associated with a predetermined number of other portable communication devices;

establish a symmetric traffic key using an APK key establishment process between a first portable communication device and the predetermined number of other portable communication devices during a ~~background~~ an idle mode of the first portable communication device;

establish a secure communication session in a first type of communication between the first portable communication and at least one among the predetermined number of other portable communication devices without further requiring the APK key establishment process;

switch to at least a second type of communication; and

share the symmetric traffic key between the first portable communication device and the at least one among the predetermined number of other portable communication devices in the second type of communication.